GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2337
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
QUALITY OF FOODGRAINS
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether quality check of foodgrain stocks of Food Corporation of India (FCI) is mandatory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain States do not allow such mandatory checks;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to ensure regular periodic checks?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Quality check of foodgrain stocks of Food Corporation of India (FCI) is manadatory. FCI issues detailed guidelines to their field functionaries regarding quality control measures to be taken at the time of procurement/acceptance of stocks of foodgrains. These instructions include sampling, inspection and super inspection at various levels.

(c), (d) & (e): Some States like Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Punjab and Orissa had shown reluctance in allowing FCI staff to carry out quality checking of food stocks held by the State agencies procured under decentralized procurement scheme on the ground that necessary instructions in this regard had not been issued by their respective Governments. Government of Punjab had shown reluctance in quality checking by FCI staff on the plea that FCI is also one of the procuring agencies like State procuring agencies.

To ensure regular periodic checks of foodgrains procured by State Governments, guidelines had been formulated and issued to State Governments in 2002. These guidelines have been reiterated in September, 2007. These guidelines clearly envisage inspection of the stocks procured by State Government and their agencies by FCI.